

community. On the occasion of this 20th Annual Leadership Conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 27) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, while I did not support the Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization bill that was passed by this body, I would like to thank Chairman BOEHNER, as well as the Republican and Democratic Committee staffs, for assisting me in adding two significant amendments to the bill.

The first of these amendments relates to domestic microcredit, and ensures that local one-stop centers may use funding to provide information about the benefits of microcredit lending, and the local institutions that provide such loans, to individuals partaking in entrepreneurial training. The second amendment creates a demonstration project which will provide funds to industry consortia for the purpose of workforce training and development. Businesses, institutions of higher education, employee representatives, and workforce development community-based organizations within an industry will be able to join together to identify and address workforce needs within their given industry. These funds can be used to advance worker skills, conduct analyses of skill deficiencies and plans to address them, and develop rigorous training and education programs related to employment in high-growth, high-wage industries. The amendment creates a "win-win" for employers and employees, as it would help employers improve their workforce, and allow employees to obtain the skills necessary to advance their careers.

Again, I feel strongly that these amendments will result in positive changes to current law, and I thank Chairman BOEHNER as well as the Republican and Democratic staffs of the Education and the Workforce Committee for their assistance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, I had left the chamber after the voice vote on the final passage of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act, thinking that congressional business had

ended for the day. I did not know that subsequently the vote was vacated and a rollcall vote was called. At that time I was on my way to Dulles Airport to fly back to my congressional district. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage (rollcall vote 52).

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENT JOHN M. BRUCE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board of Trustees President John Bruce in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

John Bruce is the President of the U.I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Bruce decided to make a run for elected office because he did not agree with some of the decisions the Board was making. Armed with that motivation, he ran for and was elected to the board in May 2002. "It's been a challenging and interesting experience," Bruce said. "I've met a lot of fine people."

John Bruce is the Director of the Laredo Job Corps, an education training facility. As Center Director of Laredo Job Corps, Bruce oversees an organization with an annual budget of \$5,500,000. Bruce is also a certified commissioned peace officer and a licensed law enforcement instructor. He is a certified K-9 trainer, a member of the Sheriff's Department SWAT team, and is a former Special Forces Operations officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Bruce ran on the platform of safety in our schools. He initiated the K-9 Patrol Program in UISD to help curtail drug and gang activity at district campuses. Job Corps recently donated two K-9s, which saved the district nearly \$12,000.

Bruce has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and history from Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He is also a licensed customs broker. Bruce has held numerous positions in several civic and community organizations. He was a member of the 2001 UISD Blue Ribbon Committee, he was vice president of the United High School Booster Club, and Bruce also serves as an advisor to Explorer Post 437. He is a member of the Laredo Masonic Lodge, the Laredo Shriners, and the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize United Independent School District Board President John M. Bruce.

TRIBUTE TO ELENA ANUZIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the State of Michigan and Detroit area community lost a member whose life was characterized by an altruistic commitment to her fellow human beings.

As the youngest daughter of a mill owner and a loving mother, Elena Anuzis was born in Lithuania in 1920, where she grew up in a peaceful country home with three sisters and a brother. But shortly after she married Ceslovas Anuzis, their peaceful life together was ravaged by World War II and the Soviet Union's subsequent occupation of their nation. Fearful for their lives, Elena and Ceslovas fled their country and traveled to the United States, specifically to Michigan, where they settled in Detroit and raised their four children—Ausra, Gailute, Saulius and Andrius.

Elena, along with her husband, is honored by the state of Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations," an honor bestowed to individuals who risked their lives to rescue Jews from the holocaust. Although their means were meager, they were willing to shelter Hasia Green-Gaslevitz, sent to them by a Catholic Nun from a nearby monastery. There is evidence the couple helped others. They rescued two Jewish girls from the Vilna Ghetto and found shelter for them at the home of a pharmacist in Lyda. They also provided false documentation for other Ghetto escapees.

Mr. Speaker, every day Americans live extraordinary lives, and Elena Anuzis exemplifies their quiet courage and sublime virtue. She triumphed over momentous trials and tribulations and, despite witnessing the horrors of inhumanity, she never ceased spying, eyeing and elevating the best in everyone; and, in essence and act, generously giving of her heart and soul to her fellow human beings. Let us then all pause to honor Elena; and extend our deepest condolences to her loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LCDR ISRAEL G. "TEX" SEEGER, USNR (RET.)

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Israel G. "Tex" Seeger and to honor his great contributions to the United States. Tex turns 90 on March 21, 2005, and he will celebrate this momentous occasion on March 26, 2005 at a special dinner with family and friends.

Tex's courage and brave dedication have made our country and the great State of New York extremely proud. Tex volunteered for the United States Navy on June 30, 1941. After graduating second in a class of 500, from the U.S. Navy V-7 Midshipman Training Program, Tex was awarded an officer's sword for achieving the highest grade in engineering for deck midshipmen. Tex began his service as Deck Division Officer and Boat Group Commander aboard the USS *Edward Rutledge*, an attack transport, during the invasion of North Africa. He then went on to serve as Operations Officer aboard the USS *Harry Lee*, another attack transport, during the invasion of Sicily, Tarawa, Kwajalein, and New Guinea.

In May of 1944, Tex was one of 50 Naval Officers selected to take the Preparatory Staff Course at the Naval War College. Following his graduation, Tex served as Operations Officer and Flag Secretary on the Staff of Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger, where his duties included preparing contingency operation plans